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2017 Governor's Public Health Conference - Most Attended in History

*by the Local Public Health Program,
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The 2017 Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference had the highest level of attendance in its 12 year history with over 300 attendees at the general conference. It opened with the pre-conference sessions on April 25 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan. The Fam-

ily Health and the Public Health Pre-conference sessions featured a joint keynote presentation from Dr. Jay Butler, chief medical officer for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and director of the Division of Public Health. He is the current president of the Association of State and Territorial Officials (ASTHO) and presented on the 2017 ASTHO President's Challenge - Public Health Approaches to Preventing Substance Misuse and Addictions. Dr. Butler framed substance misuse and addictions as a public health challenge and applied a public health practice paradigm to the issue. He shared a number of strategies that targeted the three levels of prevention: primary, secondary and tertiary. In terms of tertiary prevention or acute health event control and prevention, Dr. Butler shared strategies such as supporting widespread and sustained use of ignition interlocks and providing public and professional education on administering naloxone and managing overdose. Secondary prevention or chronic disease screening and management strategies shared included promoting a science-based understanding of addictions; increasing awareness of addictions as chronic health conditions; incorporating Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) into healthcare and social services; and a number of steps to improve access to withdrawal symptom management and support for recovery. Dr. Butler shared a number of strategies for primary prevention to address environmental controls and social determinants including promoting healthy families and increase resiliency; preventing adverse childhood experiences; promoting mental wellness; adopting adolescent risk reduction strategies; limiting advertising of opioids and other substances; reduce the prescription supply of opioids in communities; policy strategies such as age restrictions; and supporting safer pain management and judicious prescribing. As a part of implementing a public health approach to this epidemic, Dr. Butler encouraged attendees to use data to assess the problem and measure progress.



The two day general conference featured a number of state and nationally recognized keynote speakers including an opening keynote from the University of Denver's Corey Ciocchetti, JD. Corey challenged participants to set priorities based on a big-picture perspective and to live an authentic life. He encouraged participants to invest in strong personal relationships and a solid character. A keynote panel featuring Phil Griffin from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's Amy Showalter and Elizabeth Holzschuh focused on collaborating on large scale outbreak investigations. The panelists presented information from a case study that took place at Olathe Northwest High School in 2015. Dr. Tiffany Anderson of Topeka Public Schools presented on trauma informed systems of care. She shared about the impact of the environment on students' health and education. She encouraged participants to engage new partners, collaborate, and take unique approaches to addressing community issues. The final keynote of the conference was delivered by Emily Holubowich on demonstrating the value of public health. She provided an overview of the current political landscape and its potential on public health funding; she provided context for the current landscape, including an explanation of the budget process. She challenged participants to use a compelling message to share the value of public health and to educate policymakers and community members.

In addition to the keynote speakers, a variety of breakout sessions were held to meet the changing needs of the populations served through public health programs and initiatives. View the conference brochure [here](#) for additional information about the conference topics and speakers. Handouts and presentations from the conference are also available [online](#).

If you have speaker or topic suggestions for the 2018 Governor's Public Conference, please contact Katie Mahuron at katiemahuron@ks.gov.

Building On the Governor's Public Health Conference

*by the Local Public Health Program,
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



Did you hear something at the Governor's Public Health Conference that left you wanting to know more? Or were you unable to attend, but a coworker has piqued your interest with their stories from the conference? If you fit either of these categories, here are some upcoming learning opportunities and recent articles that build upon some of the presentations at the Governor's Public Health Conference.

If you were interested in more information on Dr. Jay Butler's 2017 ASTHO President's Challenge and using a public health approach to address the opioid epidemic check out the following:

- Webinar - Public Health Approaches to Address the Opioid Epidemic: Cross-sector Collaboration in Maternal and Child Health - Dr. Butler will present on his challenge on May 9, 12 - 1:30 p.m. Register [here](#).
- *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health* - Dr. Butler recommended this [recent report](#), particularly the [second chapter](#) which focuses on the neurobiology of addiction.

If Corey Ciochetti's keynote caught your interest, consider visiting his [website](#) or [YouTube page](#) for more information. Additional information about public health ethics can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [web-site](#) or the American Public Health Association's [Principles of Ethical Practice of Public Health brochure](#).

Want to know more about the tuberculosis (TB) case study from the panel's keynote presentation? Read the [recently published Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report article](#) on the use of video directly observed therapy. Panelist Elizabeth Holzschuh was the lead author and the two other panelists, Amy Showalter and Phil Griffin, co-authored the article. Another resource on TB can be found through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC offers an interactive core curriculum on tuberculosis that presents information on diagnosing and treating latent TB infection and TB disease. The course provides information on TB testing methods, treatment regimens, and infection control considerations. Check it out on the CDC [website](#).

If you are interested in additional information on trauma informed systems or want to share Dr. Anderson's message with others, watch her [YouTube videos](#) or read [an article](#) about her work. Consider attending an upcoming regional public health meeting to hear more about trauma informed systems of care from the Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute. An additional resource can be found in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's [report](#), *SAMSHA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach*.

Emily Holubowich recommended the recent Trust for America's Health [report](#), *A Funding Crisis for Public Health and Safety: State-by-State Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts, 2017*. She also recommended the anecdotes available on [www.cutshurt.org](#). Follow Emily on Twitter through her Twitter handle [@healthfunding](#).

Regional Public Health Meetings

*by Teri Caudle, RN, PHN, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The 2017 regional public health meetings are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. The agenda for the second quarter includes a variety of topics: An Introduction to the National Diabetes Prevention Program and Self-Management Programs, Erin Fletcher, Program Manager Community Clinical Linkages, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Health Promotion; What is "Trauma Informed" Public Health System of Care?, Vanessa Lohf, Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute; and the Kansas Local Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Ghazala Perveen, KDHE Director of Science and Surveillance, and Pratik Pandya, Advanced Epidemiologist. Register on [KS-TRAIN](#), Course ID#1069679.

The dates and locations for the meetings are:

- South Central Region, Hutchinson, May 3
- Southwest Region, Garden City, May 10
- Northwest Region, Oakley, May 11
- North Central Region, Beloit, May 31
- Northeast Region, Topeka, June 13

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics or questions regarding the meetings, please contact Teri Caudle at teri.caudle@ks.gov.

Raise a Glass for World Milk Day - June 1

by Midwest Dairy Council



The United Nations declared in 2001 World Milk Day to take place every June 1, because milk is so important for healthy nutrition. Midwest Dairy Council is calling on everybody to [RAISE A GLASS and drink MILK](#) on June 1 to celebrate the benefits of milk for our lives. Visit [www.worldmilkday2017.com](#) for more information. June also is a time to celebrate Dairy Month. Midwest Dairy Council has developed a [communications toolkit](#) to make it easy to share information about June Dairy Month with your audience/networks. Feel free to use these tools as you plan for the month of June.

The Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition

by Alissa Rankin, Project Manager and Caitlin Brock, VISTA
WSU Center for Public Health Initiatives



The first Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition meeting convened on Wednesday, March 29. There were 49 participants present and five participants who called in remotely. Specific items covered during the course of the two hour meeting included (1) a history and overview of the formation of the KS CHW Coalition (2) committee updates from the Executive, Advocacy, Education, and Symposium Committees, (3) opportunities for participants to get involved by choosing a committee, (4) a successful coalition co-chair election, (5) selection of a coalition logo style, and (6) determination of coalition meeting frequency and style. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 8, held in conjunction with the 2017 Kansas Community Health Worker Symposium in Wichita. To receive coalition updates and newsletter, please contact Alissa Rankin at alissa.rankin@wichita.edu.

Kansas Well Represented at the 2017 National Conference on Tobacco or Health in Austin, Texas

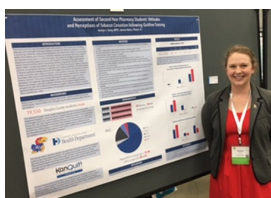
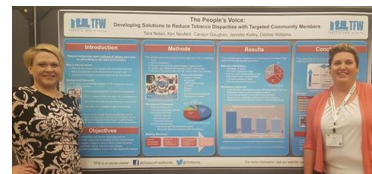
by Jennifer Church, Community Health Promotion Section
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE



Congratulations to the Douglas and Sedgwick County Chronic Disease Risk Reduction (CDRR) Coordinators and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Health Promotion staff members who presented posters at the National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH). The NCTOH drew nearly 2,000 public health professionals to Austin, Texas, in March to receive information on the latest best practices and policies to reduce tobacco use.

Kansas attendees presented the following posters:

- A Health System Approach to Tobacco Cessation through a Partnership with the Kansas Early Detection Works Program - authors included KDHE staff: Julie F. Sergeant, Matthew Schrock, Cindy Bervert, Mickey Wu, Belle Federman and Cynthia Snyder
- The People's Voice: Developing Solutions to Reduce Tobacco Disparities with Targeted Community Members - authors included staff from Sedgwick County's Kansas Academy of Family Physicians: Tara Nolen, Kim Neufeld, Carolyn Gaughan, Jennifer Kelley and Debbie Williams



- Assessment of Second-Year Pharmacy Students' Attitudes and Perceptions of Tobacco Cessation following Quitline Training - authors included Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department staff member, Kaitlyn Perry, and Kansas University School of Pharmacy's Jessica Bates.

If you would like the opportunity to read the posters and learn from these tobacco use prevention and cessation leaders, please contact Jennifer Church, Community Health Promotion Section Director, KDHE at jennifer.church@ks.gov.

KDHE Provides Funding for New Public Water Supply System

by KDHE



Construction of a new public water supply system, along the Kansas River east of Lawrence, is scheduled to begin in March 2017. Treated water will be utilized by Douglas County Rural Water District No. 5 and Osage County Rural Water District No. 5, which serve rural populations in southwest Douglas County and northeast Osage County. The new system will ensure a long term water supply source for the district's approximate 5,500 customers.

Financing for construction of the public water supply system was made possible through a loan provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Using the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund, KDHE has provided a nearly \$20 million loan, in which 30 percent of the principal amount will be forgiven. The full system will include a water treatment plant, wells, a storage tank, water transmission mains, a water tower, and a pumpstation.

Did You Know? Mental Health of Children in Rural Areas

by CDC



Did You Know?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released some key statistics and suggestions for addressing these disparities.

- About **1 in 7 US children** aged 2-8 years has a mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder, such as anxiety, learning problems, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.
- Kids who have these disorders and live in rural areas face **personal, financial, and neighborhood challenges** more often than those who live in urban areas.
- Rural children and their parents might need additional support from states, healthcare systems, and primary care providers - **[here's how to help](#)** them thrive.

2017 Schedule Meetings and Conferences Impacting Local Public Health Agencies

[Click Here](#) to Access the Calendar

KDHE's Special Population Health and the Primary Care and Rural Health Sections Merge



*by Kendra Baldrige, LMSW,
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

On March 27, 2017, the Special Population Health and the Primary Care and Rural Health Sections in the Bureau of Community Health Systems at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) were merged into one section. KDHE is currently working on the name of that section. This section now includes the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program as well as the programs that were previously housed in the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health: Charitable Health Care Provider Program; Community-Based Primary Care Clinic Program; State 30 (Conrad) J-1 Visa Waiver Program; Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (FLEX); Kansas State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP); Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP); Unused Medications Program; and the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP). The newly merged section will continue to work closely with Kansas Recruitment and Retention Center (KRRC); conduct the Navigating Rural Health Resources (NRHR) webinar series; administer and facilitate the Kansas Rural Information Source (KRHS) also referred to as L-Soft; and designate Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).

The Director of the section is Kendra Baldrige, LMSW. Kendra began working at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in December of 2007. She had been the Eastern Region Case Manager and then Lead Case Manager for the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program (KSFHP). Starting in October 2015, she was promoted to be the new Director of Special Population Health which included being the KSFHP Program Director and the State Refugee Health Coordinator. When the Refugee Preventative Health Program transitioned to a private agency in the fall of 2016, Kendra became the state contact for Minority Health as well as the state representative on the Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC). Kendra has a BA in Sociology and a Masters of Social Work, both from the University of Kansas. Kendra can be contacted via e-mail at kendra.baldrige@ks.gov or via phone at 785-296-8113.

KDHE Updates

by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment



Charlie Hunt, State Epidemiologist and Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, has left the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to join the Kansas Health Institute. Dr. Farah Ahmed will serve as the Interim State Epidemiologist and Interim Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics effective May 1. She has been with KDHE since 2010 in the role of Environmental Health Officer where she serves as the liaison between the Division of Public Health and the Division of Environment. Dr. Ahmed has a MPH in International and Family Health and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Texas Houston School of Public Health.

Kara Titus recently joined KDHE as the new Public Information Officer. Prior to joining KDHE, she worked at the Office of Senator Jerry Moran for 3 years in a variety of different roles. Gary Mason, Deputy Secretary of Environment, has left KDHE; he will return to Wichita to assist in the management of his family business. John Mitchell will act as the Interim Deputy Secretary of Environment.

Michael Bear has left his position as the Preparedness Director at KDHE to accept a position at Kansas State University as their Emergency Coordinator. Michael McNulty will serve as the Interim Preparedness Director. Michael McNulty has been with KDHE Preparedness since 20013 when he started as a Program Consultant with the Hospital Bioterrorism Program. He has served as the state's primary ESF 8 Coordinator since 2008. Michael is often recognized through his work with Fred the Preparedness Dog to educate children and families about emergency preparedness. He is also part of a national CDC-FBI training cadre that instructs law enforcement and health professionals about joint investigations for biological emergencies.

Ashley Goss has been selected to serve as the Deputy Secretary for KDHE; she has been filling this role on an interim basis since January. She will continue to act as the Director of Bureau of Community Health Systems until that position is filled. Ashley worked at the Finney County Health Department for eleven years, where she served as executive director for her last six years there.

The Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) website has been updated. The health risk indicators are presented in an interactive format with data in the form of tables, graphs, maps and trend lines. It allows the user to effectively access, navigate and visualize the multi-year data from the 2011, 2013 and 2015 KS BRFSS surveys. This tool, featuring local level data from the BRFSS, designed for use by local and regional public health officials, community leaders and policy makers in identifying health conditions and behaviors related to chronic and communicable diseases, disability and injury. These data can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.kdheks.gov/brfss/BRFSS2015/index.html>. Please contact [Pratik Pandya](#) or [Dr. Ghazala Perveen](#) if you need any assistance in navigating the website or interpreting the local data.

Kansas Trauma Program Hosts 2017 Regional Trauma Symposiums in May



by the Kansas Trauma Program

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE's) Kansas Trauma Program will be hosting a symposium in each of the six trauma regions throughout the months of April and May. The dates and locations for the meetings in May are:

- North Central Region, Salina, May 10
- Northwest Region, Oakley, May 17

Register on KS-TRAIN, Course ID#1062872. For questions, contact Wendy Gronau at wendy.gronau@ks.gov.

2016 Preliminary Birth Report Available

by KDHE Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has published the 2016 Kansas Preliminary Birth Report. The report reveals there was a 2.2 percent decrease in births this year. The birth rate in Kansas is now 13.1 per 1,000 population. The rate of teen births decreased by 11.1 percent from 2015.

This report is a preliminary analysis of these data as collected by the KDHE Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics. The full report can be viewed online at <http://www.kdheks.gov/phi>.

Trauma Informed Systems of Care

by Vanessa Lohf, Project Specialist, Center for Public Health Initiatives



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INSTITUTE
Center for Public Health Initiatives

In February and March 2017, the WSU Center for Public Health Initiatives, in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), hosted *Trauma-Informed Systems of Care: Basics for the Public Health System* in Wichita. Nearly 40 participants from local health

departments, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, and integrated public health partnerships from across the state attended to learn how traumatic stress impacts early brain development and long term physical health, as well as how organizations can become more trauma-informed in their interactions with patients, staff, and community partners. If you are interested in attending a training or would like to learn more about what CPHI can do to support your organization in becoming more trauma-informed, please contact Vanessa Lohf, Project Specialist, at vanessa.lohf@wichita.edu.

Kansas Community Health Worker Symposium - June 8

by Alissa Rankin, Project Manager, Center for Public Health Initiatives
and Caitlin Brock, VISTA, Center for Public Health Initiatives



The Kansas Community Health Worker (CHW) Coalition is pleased to announce that the second annual Kansas Community Health Worker Symposium will be held on Thursday, June 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. This year's theme is *Building Bridges: A Community Health Worker Path to Health Equity*. The event will be held at Wichita State University in the Rhatigan Student Center ballroom. Registration opened online on April 21. For more details, contact Alissa Rankin at alissa.rankin@wichita.edu.

Managing Shigella Strains with Possible Reduce Susceptibility to Ciprofloxacin

by KDHE



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a Health Advisory announcing new recommendations for diagnosing and managing Shigella strains with possible reduced susceptibility to ciprofloxacin. Data submitted to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) regarding the use of antibiotics to treat Shigella shows that about 55 percent of patients are prescribed antibiotics, and ciprofloxacin is prescribed to about 35 percent of those patients. Infections with emerging strains of Shigella may be harder to treat with ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic often used when treatment is needed, due to emerging quinolone resistance. Antimicrobial susceptibility tests may not accurately predict whether Shigella infections with certain resistance genes can be treated effectively with ciprofloxacin. Using an antibiotic that isn't effective can contribute to the growing problem of multidrug-resistant Shigella and increase the chance of others getting sick from this highly contagious bacteria. Please visit the CDC's [Shigella webpage](#) for the Center's recommendations for clinicians, laboratories and public health officials.

Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The next webinar will be May 23. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

Accreditation Corner

KARP Workshop - Workforce Development Plan Workshop - June 2



The Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project (KARP) invites you to join the Workforce Development Plan Workshop at the Riley County Health Department on June 2, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. This is the first in a series of workshops that will focus on the eight prerequisites for accreditation: community health assessment, community health improvement plan, department strategic plan, organizational branding strategy, workforce development plan, performance management system, quality improvement plan, and a public health emergency operations plan. This workshop will focus on the development of an agency workforce development plan. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jessica Fiscus at jessica.fiscus@wichita.edu.

New Infographic Showcases the Value of PHAB Accreditation



The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) recently unveiled a new, one-page infographic showcasing the value of PHAB accreditation. The new resource, the [Value of PHAB Accreditation: Strengthening Health Departments to Better Serve Their Communities](#), provides a visual representation of data from the evaluation of the national accreditation program conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. The colorful infographic presents six key themes, or benefits, that have emerged from the findings: quality improvement, partnerships, accountability, strengths/weaknesses, workforce, and resources. The new infographic is available [here](#) as a free download.

"While having the accreditation certificate is a valuable asset, it's going through the process that reaps the greatest benefits to the health department," said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender. "Health departments will vary in their direct benefits, and we have captured some of those demonstrated benefits in this at-a-glance resource."

For more information about the value of PHAB accreditation, please visit the ["Benefits" page](#) of PHAB's website

PHNCI Unveils Innovation Governmental Public Health: Building a Roadmap



The Public National Center for Innovations (PHNCI), at PHAB, is pleased to announce the availability of [Innovation in Governmental Public Health: Building a Roadmap](#). This roadmap describes what innovation in public health practice might look like as health departments consider, develop, and implement innovation ideas. This work is being considered as an early developmental concept, which will be improved over time. Therefore, the definition, characteristics, and organizational culture listed should all be considered as "working" for now, with more definitive versions to be developed as PHNCI learns more from the public health field.

Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project's Webinars Domains 1 - 12



The Center for Public Health Initiatives at Wichita State University has developed 12 extremely short webinars, only ten minutes each, to review each domain of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards and measures. These could be helpful as an orientation to public health for new staff or students. To view these webinars, please visit [KS-TRAIN](#) or see them from the new Community Engagement Institute [webpage](#).

Preparedness Corner

Preparedness Workforce Training Plans Available on KS-TRAIN



Introduction to Public Health Preparedness for Preparedness Staff, Module 1, Course ID# 1046405 on [KS-TRAIN](#) is offered by the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. This training covers the main concepts of public health preparedness and provides an overview of the supporting infrastructure at the federal and state level. It is part of a TRAIN training plan series, [Basics of Public Health Preparedness](#), designed for local public health preparedness staff.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain four types of public health threats
- Describe the federal preparedness structure
- Describe the Public Health Emergency Preparedness capabilities and how they are to be used
- Explain federal and state preparedness funding resources

KS-TRAIN also hosts the [Foundations of Public Health Preparedness](#) training plan that is organized by the Public Health Preparedness and Response Core Competency Model domains. Each course can be completed within 15 minutes to one hour. This training plan includes the Basics of Public Health Preparedness modules, Introduction to Public Health Preparedness and the NIMS required training.

Zika Virus, the Evolving Story: What You Need to Know



This archived webinar, co-hosted by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), highlights new data released in the CDC April 2017 [Vital Signs](#). In this resource, the CDC draws on data in the [US Zika Pregnancy Registry](#) to clarify what is known about abnormalities, testing, and imaging. Expert speakers from the CDC, the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, and the AAP Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council shared the latest information and recommendations on how pediatric clinicians can be an advocate for Zika awareness in their practice setting. For additional information, see the [AAP News article](#). This webinar is part of an AAP Webinar Series on Zika Virus Syndrome, created in recognition that pediatricians, primary care providers and subspecialists will require support and guidance.

CDC's Public Health Matters Blog - Autism and Preparedness



There is a new neighbor on [Sesame Street](#). Her name is Julia and she's helping dispel decades-old stereotypes about autism. Julia is a little girl with autism and her move to "where the air is sweet" coincided with April being Autism Awareness Month. Our new neighbor is helping us think about the challenges of parenting a child of autism. One of those challenges is preparing children with special needs for public health emergencies.

Children are [affected by disasters](#) differently than adults. Mental stress from a disaster can be harder on children because they may not understand what is going on around them and don't have experience bouncing back from difficult situations. Having autism can further compound this stress for a child and their family. Any parent of a child with special needs will tell you that it takes patience and perseverance to accomplish even everyday tasks. Preparing your child for something as potentially disruptive as a natural disaster might sound stressful or maybe even seem impossible depending on the exact needs of your child. Below are some tips that may help your own child or a child within your community.

As you are well aware, minor change of plans can cause big problems for children on the autism spectrum. While it might seem daunting to imagine how responding to an emergency such as a [tornado warning](#) might impact your son or daughter, thinking through all of the potential complications can help you prepare for your child's specific needs.

Start by assembling the same [tools and resources](#) as you would for any child. That includes creating a basic emergency supplies kit and making a family emergency plan. Then add a few items specific for your child's particular needs. You'll want to include: medical identification for your child; at least a 3-day supply of all medicines; list of your child's triggers and helps for behavior issues; names and contact information for all doctors and therapists; complete list of your child's health records; and the names and serial numbers for medical equipment. Don't forget that it's important to keep all your kits and supplies, including medical devices, in a handy location. Also, if your child with autism is able to communicate and to follow instructions, give them a developmentally-appropriate version of your family's emergency plan.

Your child with autism may be particularly in tune with the moods of the adults around them and may sense stress, anxiety, and frustration, and then mimic the mood or behavior. The best way to prepare for being able to express your inner strength is to regularly take care of yourself. Utilize respite care services and don't be afraid to ask for help. Regularly reaching out to your network of friends, relatives, and/or co-workers for assistance will help you practice in case of an emergency situation. All these things can help to give your special needs child a sense of security and safety, before, during, and after the disaster.

A number of resources are available on this topic, including:

- CDC's [Caring for Children in a Disaster](#)
- Institute on Development and Disability's [Emergency Preparedness resources for people with disabilities and their caregivers](#)
- Sesame Street's [Emergency Preparation](#)

Don't Forget to Check Out the Ready Reader

READY READER

The Ready Reader is developed by a taskforce representing emergency preparedness professionals, regulators, and advocacy associations from Kansas concerned with promoting compliance with the new CMS Emergency Preparedness conditions. The newsletters are available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/providers.htm> and new issues become available on Tuesdays. To receive the newsletter directly when it is released, send an email with your email address to Michael McNulty at mike.mculty@ks.gov.

KDEM Trainings

Visit the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM)'s [website](#) for a full listing of upcoming trainings. There are currently openings in the Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Training in Dodge City. There are also several openings available for G300 and G400 courses through July.



Funding Opportunities

New Markets Tax Credit Program - May 17



The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program provides tax incentives for investments in business or economic projects in distressed rural or urban counties, including capital investments in healthcare facilities. The NMTC Program permits any taxpayer to receive a credit against federal income taxes for making an investment in designated Community Development Entities (CDEs). A CDE then invests the capital in a low-income community. The tax credit is equal to 39 percent of the cost of the initial investment and is claimed over 7 years. Examples of previously funded projects include: rural pharmacy retail stores; supermarkets operating in severely distressed rural areas; building or expanding healthcare facilities to meet the needs of rural communities; and creating affordable office rental space for human service organizations.

In order to apply for this funding an organization must be a CDE; those who are not CDEs, can search for active [CDEs](#) to partner on projects. Additional information about the requirements for this funding is available [online](#).

Funding Opportunity for School - Based Adolescent Prevention Services - June 9



The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) has announced a [funding opportunity](#) for local health departments (LHDs). NACCHO, with the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), will offer funding and technical assistance for up to four LHDs to increase their capacity to work in partnership with the local education agency (LEA) and other key community stakeholders in their jurisdiction to prevent adolescent HIV/STD infections through the implementation of [DASH school-based approaches](#). The project will result in the joint development of action plans that the LHDs and LEAs will implement while participating in learning and engagement opportunities with the other selected recipients. This project is an exciting opportunity to develop and expand adolescent HIV/STD prevention activities and strengthen partnerships with key collaborators. LHDs can strengthen school-based approaches for health education, health services, and safe and supportive environments by developing processes for selecting and implementing health education curricula, implementing referral systems and guides for adolescents to access key health services and providers through school staff, and facilitating parent engagement in school-based prevention-related activities, among other crucial activities.

Funding LHDs will be required to do the following:

1. Select a school-based approach to focus on over the course of the project period.
2. Plan and convene, in collaboration with NACCHO, a two-day, in-person action planning process with local stakeholders.
3. Based on the meeting outputs, expand upon and finalize an action plan to advance the implementation of the selected school-based approach.
4. Initiate implementation of the action plan, in collaboration with the LEA and other community stakeholders.
5. Participate in at least monthly phone calls with NACCHO to plan for project activities, assess project progress, document successes and lessons learned, and address challenges.
6. Participate in quarterly webinars with all funded LHDs and their LEA partners.
7. Participate in an in-person meeting in summer 2018. NACCHO will cover travel, lodging, and meal costs associated with attending the meeting.
8. Develop a final project report in the form of a success story about the collaborative action planning process and efforts to advance the implementation of school-based HIV and STD prevention approaches.

Additional information about the requirements and the funding opportunity will be presented by NACCHO at an [informational webinar](#) for potential applicants on May 15, 3 p.m. Application requirements and full details of the project are available in the [Request for Applications](#) (RFA). All applicants must be active NACCHO members; those interested in applying can become a dues-paying NACCHO member [online](#). Applications are due June 9. Questions about the RFA and the application process can be directed to Kat Kelley, Program Analyst, HIV, STI, and Viral Hepatitis, at kkelly@naccho.org or 202-507-4223.

Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant for 2017 - 2018 School Year - Deadline June 14



Fuel Up to Play 60 offers funding opportunities to improve the healthy eating and physical activity options in schools. Visit FuelUpToPlay60.com to view the application. There is up to \$4,000 per year available to qualifying K-12 schools enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to kick start healthy changes. To qualify for the competitive, nationwide funding program, the school must participate in the National School Lunch Program and have a registered [Program Advisor](#). There are two rounds of funding for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. The current funding round will open in mid-late April and the deadline for applications is Wednesday, June 14. To get started, you will choose one Healthy Eating Play and one Physical Activity Play from the [Playbook](#). The [School Wellness Investigation](#) will help you determine the Plays that work best for your school. More information about this funding opportunity is available [online](#).



Kansas Health Foundation - Impact and Capacity Grants Initiative

The Kansas Health Foundation is now receiving proposals for the Impact and Capacity Grants Initiative. This funding opportunity replaces the previously existing Recognition Grant Program and is designed to make funds available to a range of mission-aligned organizations actively working to reduce health disparities and promote health equity. The Impact and Capacity Grants Initiative is focused on two categories - impact grants which work in key health impact areas or capacity-building grants to build nonprofit capacity to address health disparities. This is an open application process with applications accepted through September 15, 2017, or until all 2017 funds are awarded.

All prospective applicants should carefully review the mission and strategic focus of Kansas Health Foundation (KHF), as well as the funding criteria before applying; this information is available in the [request for proposals](#) (RFP). All funding proposals are required to align with the mission of KHF, such as work supporting KHF's five impact areas of:

- Increasing access to health care
- Decreasing tobacco use
- Increasing physical activity
- Increasing healthy food access
- Improving civic health

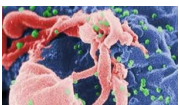
As it relates to proposals for the impact grants, preference is given to proposals describing a health policy, systems or environmental-focused effort which demonstrates the opportunity to address health disparities in one or more of KHF's five impact areas which adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health. Available funding is designated to support new efforts and may not be used for long-term, ongoing or recurring programmatic efforts.

For the capacity building grants, preference will be given to proposals for non-recurring internal capacity building needs for organizations addressing health disparities which adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion. This track is open to all mission-aligned organizations actively working to reduce health disparities and promote health equity and is not limited to KHF's five impact areas.

The maximum grant size is \$25,000, and the maximum grant term is two years. In order to be eligible, 50 percent or more of the organization's target population must reside in Kansas. Please note that only one proposal from each organization will be accepted per year. Further information on the funding opportunity, including funding exclusions and criteria for consideration are outlined in the [RFP](#). Additional information about the funding opportunity, including the instructions, templates and the RFP is available [online](#). Please submit any questions regarding the Impact and Capacity Grants Initiative RFP via e-mail, with the subject "Impact and Capacity Grants Question," to Blair Weibert, Program Assistant, at bweibert@khf.org.

Training and Conference Announcements

Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium - May 9-10



Johnson County Department of Health and Environment invites you to attend the Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium on May 9-10. Join leaders in public health, emergency response, preparedness and healthcare to learn how highly infectious disease outbreaks are contained and managed in the state of Kansas. Network with local, state and federal partners to share Kansas-specific information on how to plan for disease outbreaks and maintain readiness in your jurisdiction. The symposium will include presentations on logistics and emergency management coordination, isolation and quarantine law, pandemic preparedness and more. There is no cost to attend the two-day event. Attendees are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses. Register on [KS-TRAIN](#), Course ID# 1068312. Registration closes on Monday, May 1. A discounted lodging rate is available for the Marriott Kansas City in Overland Park. The last day to [make a reservation](#) for the discounted lodging rate is April 17. More information about this event is available on [KS-TRAIN](#).

Webinar - Walking and Walkability in Rural Communities and Small Towns - May 10



America Walks is hosting a webinar on May 10 at 1 p.m. to examine walking and walkable communities in small towns and rural communities. The webinar will explore resources, toolkits and projects from walking champions working in this area. Attendees of this webinar will: explore tools and resources developed and used by rural communities and small towns to promote healthy communities; hear from walking champions on the ground working to create rural walkable communities; and learn how to increase the promotion of walking and walkable communities in their own communities. This webinar assumes a basic knowledge of issues related to walking and walkable communities. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Virtual Town Hall Meeting: Exploring the Emerging Field of Legal Epidemiology - May 11



Join the [Public Health Foundation \(PHF\)](#) on Thursday, May 11, 1 - 2:30pm for a virtual town hall meeting to learn more about the emerging field of legal epidemiology and explore a draft competency model being developed to support public health practitioners, lawyers, and policy experts working in this area. Developed by the [Public Health Law Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) in collaboration with a multidisciplinary [Expert Review Workgroup](#), the draft [Legal Epidemiology Competency Model \(LECM\)](#) describes research and translation knowledge and skills necessary for effectively developing, implementing, or overseeing legal epidemiology studies. Feedback is needed from the broad public health community, as well as from those engaged directly in legal epidemiology work, to inform the refinement of this draft to ensure that it best meets the needs of the public health workforce. During this virtual town hall meeting, an overview of legal epidemiology and the draft LECM will be provided, and participants will be invited to discuss this emerging field and the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this work. For more information about this virtual meeting or to [register](#), please visit the [PHF website](#) or contact Janelle Nichols at jnichols@phf.org.

CDC Grand Rounds Upcoming Sessions - 2017



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducts [monthly webinars](#) on current public health topics. Upcoming learning events include:

- May 15: Encore Presentation: Emerging Tickborne Diseases
- June 20: Promoting Hearing Health Across the Lifespan

Free [continuing education credit](#) is available for nurses, physicians and health educators through the [CDC/ATSDR Training and Continuing Education Online system](#).

Webinar - Making the Most of Main Street: Complete Streets & Walkable Communities - May 17



The National Complete Streets Coalition is excited to host its next webinar in the series "Making the Most of Main Street: Complete Streets & Walkable Communities" on May 17, 12:00 p.m. This is the fourth webinar in Implementation & Equity 201: The Path Forward to

Complete Streets, a new series of discussions designed to help professionals from a variety of disciplines put Complete Streets principles into action. Speakers from the City of Langley, WA, and Langley Main Street Association will join the Coalition and our co-host America Walks to discuss how a Complete Streets approach can help communities revitalize their downtowns. The speakers will discuss their experiences developing and implementing Complete Streets, the intersection of public health and rural economic development, how to get community members involved, and finding funding. Lessons from implementing a Complete Streets project in a small town will also be offered. Register for the webinar [online](#).

Webinar - Reducing Sitting Time at Work: What's the Evidence? - May 24



Health Evidence and Cochrane Work will be co-hosting a 60 minute webinar examining the effectiveness of workplace interventions to reduce sitting at work on May 24, 8:00 a.m.

Office work has become sedentary in nature. Increased sitting has been linked to increase in cardiovascular disease, obesity and overall mortality. This review examines the impact of workplace interventions to reduce sitting at work. Two cross-over randomized control trials, 11 cluster randomized trials and 4 controlled before-and-after studies, including 2180 participants are included in this review. Findings suggest that sit-stand desks may decrease workplace sitting. This webinar will examine the effectiveness and components of interventions that reduce sitting at work. Register for the webinar [online](#).

Tobacco Treatment Specialist Core Training - May 23-26



Public Health
Present. Promote. Protect.

The University of Kansas Medical Center is partnering with the Shawnee County Health Department to bring the highly reputable Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) training from University of Massachusetts to Topeka. The Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) Core Training is an intensive 3 ½ day, evidence-based training program designed for persons needing moderate to intensive tobacco treatment services. The curriculum is designed to address a set of core competencies for tobacco treatment specialists defined by the Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD). The course is designed for anyone providing care in a behavioral health setting who wants to master the necessary core competencies for providing evidence-based treatment for tobacco dependence. There are 15 scholarships for tobacco treatment providers in Shawnee County. Providers include health educators, social workers, respiratory therapists, dental hygienists, substance abuse counselors, nurses, administrators, physicians, and many other health professionals. More information on the training and the benefits of the training is available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). [Click here](#) to register. Participants are encouraged to register early as there are limited seats.

Kansas State of Wellness Symposium - May 24



WorkWell KS is hosting the [Kansas State of Wellness Symposium](#) on May 24. The symposium will be at the Salina Bicentennial Center. As a part of the event, worksites, organizations, and communities that are making strides toward improving health will be recognized at the Kansas State of Wellness Symposium. More information about the WorkWell KS and the event is available [online](#).

Continuing Education Courses Available for Public Health Professionals Via KS-TRAIN



Asthma Care for Health Professionals: Asthma Home Assessment, Course ID# 1067736 provides information on supporting asthma self-management. Many children with asthma and their caretakers do not effectively practice it or housing-related environmental exposures may go unreported at the routine office visit. Supporting asthma self-management through home visitation is one effective approach to addressing these barriers. This 60-minute presentation for healthcare professionals will cover home assessment for patients with uncontrolled asthma. Nurses will be able enter a home for the asthma home visitation safely, identify common asthma allergens and irritants that trigger asthma symptoms and be able to educate the patient and family about trigger remediation in a culturally sensitive way for the population they are serving. At the conclusion of this course, health professionals will be able to identify common asthma allergens and irritants that trigger asthma symptoms in the home and be able to educate the patient and family about trigger remediation in a culturally sensitive way for the population they are serving. 1.25 CNE Contact Hours are available for nurses from the Ohio Department of Health.

CQI for Public Health: The Fundamentals, Course ID# 1070037 is a self-study course which provides the fundamentals of continuous quality improvement (CQI). This course was developed for public health agencies and their partners, although the principles, process and tools have been used in all kinds of organizations and can be used anywhere – even at home. The QI principles, methods, and tools are simply best practices for improving the work and results of organizations. This course consists of three modules which include: Introduction and Principles of CQI, Problem-Solving PDSA and CQI project Selection and Teams. Continuing education credit is available for multiple disciplines.

CQI for Public Health: Tool Time, Course ID# 1070040, provides the most commonly used tools for continuous quality improvement (CQI) and is designed to accompany the course CQI for Public Health: The Fundamentals. This course was developed for public health agencies and their partners, although the principles, process and tools have been used in all kinds of organizations and can be used anywhere – even at home. This course consists of five modules which include: Analysis Tools, Data Tools, Decision Making Tools, Planning tools and QI Storyboards. Continuing education credit is available for multiple disciplines.

Mental Health Issues in Agricultural Populations, Course ID# 1068945, is designed to assist nurses and other healthcare professionals to identify sources of stress among farmers and to recognize manifestations of stress such as anxiety, depression, and the increased suicide rate in the farming population. Interventions to decrease, modify, or eliminate the stress will be shared. CHES and nursing contact hours are available.

Contemporary Evaluation and Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Course ID# 1069388 is a one hour online course targeted for Advanced Practice Nurses. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), approximately 12 million Americans have been diagnosed with COPD, but at least another 12 million Americans may be undiagnosed. Veterans are three times more likely to develop COPD than the general population. In fact, it is the fifth most prevalent disease in the Veteran population, affecting approximately 15 percent of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare users. Compared with those without COPD, Veterans with COPD suffer a tremendous disease burden manifested by higher rates of respiratory-related healthcare utilization and costs, and have a high prevalence of comorbidities. Field Surveys of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) indicate a knowledge gap regarding appropriate treatment and care of Veterans with COPD. This knowledge-based training will work to close this knowledge gap by providing information on the evaluation and management of Veterans with COPD. Nursing contact hours are available post completing this course.

At the conclusion of this educational program, learners will be able to:

1. discuss differential diagnosis of dyspnea
2. identify correct inhaler technique
3. describe appropriate referrals for pulmonary rehabilitation programs
4. develop an action plan for pulmonary patients

Webinar - Build Power for Health Equity: Strategic Practices for Local Health Departments - June 1



How can local health departments effectively advance health equity? In this webinar, Dialogue4Health will describe a set of “inside” and “outside” strategic practices that public local health departments can use to advance equity. The webinar will be held on June 1, 12 - 1:30 p.m. The panelists will provide concrete examples of how they have implemented these practices, their lessons learned, and their practical guidance to local health department staff interested in tackling similar efforts. We will cover specific practices such as hiring and contracting, staff training, partnering with community organizing groups, and using Health in All Policies. Broader themes to be discussed include confronting the root causes of inequity and supporting leadership and innovation to advance equity.

Public health practitioners face numerous challenges in tackling these root causes of health inequities, including risk-averse leadership, political pushback, perceptions of the limits of scope of public health practice, and lack of capacity and resources. Advancing equity, therefore, requires “inside” and “outside” strategies. These strategies will be discussed as a part of this webinar. Register for the webinar [online](#).

News and Resources

HPV More Widespread Than Previously Thought

The Washington Post

During a recent two-year period, almost 23 percent of U.S. adults ages 18 to 59 had a type of genital human papillomavirus (HPV) that put them at high risk of certain cancers, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [report](#) published in April. That percentage jumped to more than 42 percent during 2013 to 2014 if any type of genital HPV was included, the CDC found. In both groups, prevalence was higher in men than in women, and it was sharply higher among blacks compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

"We tend to overlook the fact that 20 percent of us are carrying the virus that can cause cancer," said Geraldine McQuillan, lead author of the report and a senior infectious disease epidemiologist in the Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys at the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. "People really need to realize that this is a serious concern."

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. The CDC estimates that nearly [80 million](#) people are currently infected and that about 14 million new infections occur annually among teenagers as well as adults. Most of these go away on their own, typically without even causing symptoms, but some HPV strains can lead to genital warts and cancer. Each year, 31,000 men and women are diagnosed with cancers caused by HPV - which, in most cases, would have been preventable with the HPV vaccine, [according](#) to the CDC.

Job Postings

Geary County Health Department

- [Billing Clerk](#)
- [County Health Department Director](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse \(LPN\)](#)
- [Health Nurse I - RN](#)
- [WIC Assistant](#)

Kansas Health Matters

- [AmeriCorps VISTA](#)

Leavenworth County Health Department

- [Public Health Nurse](#)

Osage County Health Department

- [Health Department Administrator](#)

Pottawatomie County Health Department

- [Public Health Nurse \(RN\)](#)

Riley County Health Department

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse \(APRN\)](#)

Sedgwick County Health Department

- [Part Time Office Specialist | WIC](#)
- [Public Health Specialist](#)
- [Office Specialist | WIC](#)
- [Community Health Analyst](#)
- [Registered Dietitian | WIC](#)
- [Part Time Dental Interpreter](#)



Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found [here](#).

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[2017 KDHE News Releases](#)
[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)
[Kansas Environmental News](#)
[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)
[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)
[Nutrition and WIC Update](#)
[Ready Reader](#)
[What's Happening Wednesday \(Immunization\)](#)

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, email phc@kdheks.gov.
 Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at
http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm.

Send your public health news to
 Katie Mahuron at katie.mahuron@ks.gov.